

• Abroad •

Perpignan, France. In several nations, research on "antigravity" proceeds under deep security blackout. A few scientists believe that antigravity is not only possible, but could be realized in a comparatively short time by a large-scale effort. Antigravity would transform everything connected with space and motion. There would be no *a priori* limit to the velocity of space vehicles; and no problem of astronaut-crushing acceleration, since inertia would be eliminated. A native of Perpignan, Marcel Jean-Jacques Pagés, who is a doctor of medicine as well as physicist and aeronautical engineer, has been investigating antigravity since 1921 in a laboratory located in a large cave in the nearby hills. While experimenting with a mica disk in a high tension electrical field, he observed effects that convinced him he was on the track. Because of general skepticism about even the conceivability of antigravity, he has found it impossible to get support for full-scale experiment. In February of this year, M. Pagés went to the U.S. to try to interest American scientists and military men. A confidential report of the French Embassy, sent direct to General de Gaulle, summed up what it had heard of this visit: "Either this theory is a mere chimera, or it is the most sensational invention of our time. . . . The interest and practical value of the theory seem confirmed more every day by new discoveries in the field of nuclear physics. American as well as Soviet scientific and military circles are very much interested in it, and we risk seeing France lose this invention and the power that will flow from it. . . ."

Gibraltar. In the first six months of 1960, this minute Crown Colony became the world's largest importer of American cigarettes: 841 millions of them, or more than nine packets per day for every man, woman and child of the 25,000 population. The jump from last year's modest total corresponds almost exactly with the drop in cigarette imports to Tangier, now in decaying slump as a result of lost Free Port status. After Gibraltar came Hong Kong; Singapore was fourth, and Kuwait seventh on the list. Britain, even with exchange controls cast off, was only twenty-fourth.

Paris. The postwar boom of the French auto industry has hit its first big bump. U.S. compacts are cutting down the lucrative French sales on the U.S. market. The internal French market confronts two major roadblocks: the very high price of gasoline, which was never reduced from the Suez-provoked raise to about 85 cents a gallon; and the literal saturation of much of the archaic road system. Renault has cut its work week from 48 to 45 hours, and many economists are sounding a public alarm.

Tunis. Secret negotiations are under way between President Habib Bourguiba (a white-haired boy of the State Department) and Ferhat Abbas, leader of the "provision-

al government" of the Algerian terrorist FLN. The object is to proclaim unification of Tunisia and Algeria. The strategic idea is to bring about "internationalization" of the Algerian war. Through Tunisia, there would be UN representation. More important, Bourguiba and Abbas believe that they could engineer a "North African Suez": i.e., a united front of the U.S. and the USSR against France; and thus victory, à la Nasser, for the Arab combination.



Carrefour

Laos: "I can't figure out what's going on, but I think this placard should be safe."

Paris. Carrefour expresses conclusions drawn by European anti-Communists from the Powers trial: "What will happen to Powers? He will probably be released soon. He did major service for Russia, which owes him some thanks . . . the problem remains of facing his own conscience. A sour encounter, no doubt. . . . [This affair] revealed a lack of seriousness in U.S. recruitment of intelligence agents. For this profession it is not enough to be brave. One must also believe in what one is doing, and accept the risks. Powers didn't believe, and he quickly chickened out. The Americans will do well to give their agents a bit of political and civic training along with the \$2,500 a month. This spy who would do his job only when he believed he was immune to enemy fire was a choice gift to Khrushchev."

London. Current Public Enemy No. 1 of the British Left is the newly appointed Minister of Health, Mr. Enoch Powell. *New Statesman* sums up the horrific case against him: "He has an intense feeling for the individual. . . . Anything that harms the individual . . . is, generally speaking, wrong. The individual can provide for himself and should be allowed to. The state is a machine to provide protection for life and property and also a safety net for the unfortunate individuals who stumble. But it is not a community. The only community, to Powell, is the family. The logic of this probably leads Powell into disliking free public education, trade unions and trade associations, national insurance and a free health service. . . . On the whole, Powell thinks, individuals today should be able to pay their way without doles from the state."

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